recommendation of the Selection Committee in respect of Member (Personnel) has been received in the Ministry and is being processed. Prasar Bharati has initiated steps to fill up the post of Director General, All India Radio, which had fallen vacant on 28.2.2002. Further, all the employees working in Prasar Bharati continue to be Government Servants and till their services are transferred to the Corporation, election of their representatives cannot be held.

Services of pay channels under the new law

3967. DR. AKHILESH DAS: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have framed rules to ensure that pay channels under the new Law have to provide services without commercial breaks and have to decide about the source of their revenue;

(b) if so, the details thereof, and

(c) the steps taken to enforce them?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD): (a) No, Sir. Government has amended the Cable Television Networks (Regulation) Act, 1995 to, *inter alia*, provide for the transmission/retransmission of programmes of every pay channel through an addressable system.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Control over regional channels

†3968. SHRI P.K. MAHESHWARI: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state

(a) whether various State Governments have sought permission of Government to exercise control on regional channels;

(b) if so, the details thereof, State-wise; and

(c) the steps taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD): (a) and (b) The State Governments of Andhra Pradesh, Chattisgarh, Tamil Nadu, Punjab, Tripura and West Bengal have requested that they be permitted to have their own Regional T.V. Channels.

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(c) The subject 'Broadcasting' is included in the Union List under the Constitution. With the setting up of the Prasar Bharati Corporation, Doordarshan and AIR enjoy autonomy in programme matters. Prasar Bharati is a national entity and its mandate is defined under Section 12 of Prasar Bharati Act, which *inter-alia* include organising and conducting public broadcasting services to inform, educate and entertain the public of the country as a whole.

Prasar Bharati has informed that besides providing coverage to State Governments in programmes and news, time slots are given on specific requests from them for programmes from time to time.

Introduction of the CAS for TV viewers

3969. SHRIMATI BIMBA RAIKAR: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Conditional Access System for TV viewers is to be introduced from 14th July, 2003;

(b) whether Government will insist on routing of pay channels through set-top boxes in the CAS regime;

(c) whether Government have decided on the maximum price band for the free-to-air TV channel; and

(d) whether broadcasters are set to force postponement of CAS implementation because of likely decline in viewership?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD): (a) and (b) In exercise of the powers conferred by sub-section (1) of Section 4A of the Cable Television Networks (Regulation) Act, 1995, the Central Government has notified 15th January, 2003 as the date within six months from which, it shall be obligatory for every cable operator to transmit/retransmit programmes of every pay channel through an addressable system in the four metro cities, namely, Chennai, Mumbai, Kolkata and Delhi. Thereafter a set top box will be required to view the pay channels and not for free-to-air channels.

(c) Government has decided the monthly subscription for basic service tier of free-to-air channels and this is to be notified shortly.

(d) Government will not postpone the date of CAS implementation.